

Public Hearing Introduction

Federal regulations mandate that each state has a State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children. A majority of the members must be parents of children with disabilities and persons with disabilities. Others must be individuals involved in, or concerned with the education of children with disabilities. Members serve without compensation but are reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses for attending meetings.

Anyone may submit a Panel member nomination form to the Panel, the Department of Education, Division of Exceptional Children Services, or to the Governor. The form is available from the Department of Education, Division of Exceptional Children Services. The Panel's Nominating committee will review submitted forms with Division of Exceptional Children Services staff to insure panel membership and demographics as required by Federal regulation are addressed. Nominations are then sent to the Governor. The Governor may appoint those nominated by the Panel and the Division of Exceptional Children Services or he may appoint someone of his own choosing. An Executive Order from the Governor's office announces the appointment and reappointment of Panel members. This usually occurs in October.

The purpose and duties of the panel are to advise the Department of Education, Division of Exceptional Children Services in ways that promote services regarding the education of children with disabilities.

The by-laws of the panel require public hearings. We have a public hearing during each quarterly meeting and during several conferences such as the November Special Education Conference and the Parent/Professional Conference.

Our meetings are held across the state to allow for statewide public input. The secretary takes notes of the comments made. These comments will be compiled, reviewed during the next panel meeting, and submitted to the Division of Exceptional Children Services at the Department of Education for review.

Panel members are here to listen to what you have to say. We are not here to offer solutions or to give advice. If you choose to speak to the panel, please state your name. We ask that you speak only about your child and not mention others by name for reasons of confidentiality.

I'll ask the panel members to introduce themselves now and then each of you will have an opportunity to speak to the panel.

Public Hearing Closure

If no one else wishes to make comments to the Panel, we want you to know the panel appreciates each of you attending this public hearing and offering your comments.

The next Panel meeting will be held October 27th through the 29th at Natural Bridge State Resort Park in Slade, KY. There will be a public hearing during the meeting.

As chair of the State Advisory Panel, I declare this Public Hearing closed.